Construction of Sub-post office building at Dungri in Gujarat

1048. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been acquired for construction of Sub-post office building at Dungri in Valsad district of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of planning to construct the building; and

(c) the time limit of constructing the building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Construction of Post Office buildings is taken up as per the availability of funds. Due to limited resources available, there is no immediate plan to construct the building at Dungri plot.

Losses of DoP

1049. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts (DoP) has managed less than a billion dollar (Rs. 4,500 crore) in revenue during 2004-05 and its losses are mounting every year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the DoP revenue are stagnating while its private competitors such as Blue Dart, First Flight and Overnite Express are growing in leaps and bounds; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to bring down the mounting losses of DoP and to increase its revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It is fact that the Department of Posts has managed revenue of Rs. 4431.85 crores during 2004-05 which is less than a billion dollar (Rs. 4500 crores). The losses/deficit of the Department for the last five years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Losses/deficit
2001-02	1411.51
2002-03	1364.40
2003-04	1375.22
2004-05	1381.84
2005-06	1215.57

Though the Department is running in losses/deficit, it is not correct to say that the losses/deficit are increasing every year. In the year 2003-04 the deficit has increased due to payment of arrears of haulage charges to Railway on revision of rates with retrospective effect. The Department is also providing a host of services as part of USO as per the policy of Government. There is marginal increase in deficit for 2004-05 over the previous year due to non-revision of tariff and merger of DA. Moreover the Financial year 2005-06 has shown a drastic reduction in deficit by Rs. 166.27 crores.

(b) It is not correct to say that Department of Posts revenue are stagnating. The Postal Receipts are in increasing trend as can be seen from the table given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Postal Receipts
2001-02	3697.11
2002-03	4009.65
2003-04	4256.93
2004-05	4431.85
2005-06	5021.98

(c) The Department has been taking steps to increase the revenue through introduction of new products, market development activities and adoption of customer oriented strategies Speed Post, Business Post, Express Post, Retail Post etc. as a premium service have been consistently growing. The Department of Posts is also using its vast network for retailing of financial products and services agency function thereby adding to the department's revenue. Moreover, Department has also included value added

money transfer services to its port folio like instant Money Order Service and International Money Transfer.

Share holding pattern in telecom companies

1050. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present shareholding pattern in major telecom companies in India after permitting 74 per cent FDI in telecom sector;

(b) whether Government are not compromising our security by handing over majority control to foreign companies and thereby to their secret service;

(c) whether Government have assessed the damage to the security due to recent telephone tapping by private individuals;

(d) if so, the measures Government are proposing to take in this regard; and

(e) whether the highest authorities in India are immune to such tapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The shareholding pattern as informed by major telecom companies in India after enhancing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling from 49 to 74 per cent as per Press Note No. 5 (2005 series) dated 3rd November, 2005 is given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir. Government is not compromising country's security. Security issues have been addressed by prescribing certain conditions while enhancing foreign investment ceiling from 49% to 74% in telecom sector *vide* Press Note No. 5 (2005 Series) dated 3rd November, 2005. A copy of the Press Note is given in Statement-II (*See* below). Some of the important conditions are as follow:—

(i) The majority Directors on the Board including Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be resident Indian citizens, enforced through licence agreement. The appointment to these positions from among resident Indian